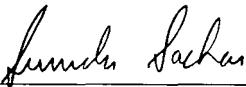


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-27 are currently pending in this application and are in condition for examination on the merits. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Marvin J. Spivak
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,913

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)